
NOFA for the Collaborative Initiative to Help End Chronic Homelessness

SECTION 1

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

Section 1: Comprehensive Approach—100 Points

I. Overview

The purpose of the Comprehensive Approach is to demonstrate that the applicant and the providers of all four core elements—(1) permanent housing, (2) mental health and substance abuse treatment and related supportive services, (3) primary care, and (4) veteran's services—are working in collaboration to integrate housing and services for persons experiencing chronic homelessness and disabled homeless families. This comprehensive strategy will use funding sources, including mainstream services resources, to provide a holistic approach to ending chronic homelessness.

Eligible Applicants

Although the lead applicant must submit the comprehensive approach as a part of the consolidated application, it is expected that the lead applicant and the relevant partner agencies will have collaborated in developing the comprehensive approach. It is up to the partner entities to provide sufficient and appropriate resources to plan and coordinate this collaborative effort throughout the grant period.

Funding Criteria

- Threshold Requirements.
- Technical Merit.
- Availability of Funds.

II. Rating Criteria for the Comprehensive Approach

The Comprehensive Approach will not receive technical review if any one of the Agency-Specific sections score below 40 percent of the allotted points as the result of technical review of each agency's section.

The Comprehensive Approach will be reviewed using the following six criteria:

1. Documentation of Need and Extent of the Problem

This will include the extent to which the applicant demonstrates understanding of the unique characteristics of the target population, in terms of the overall number of homeless persons, disabled homeless families, and chronically homeless persons and their characteristics. The applicant must include a preliminary estimate of the number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness in the target community to establish a benchmark of need, and the method by which this estimate was derived. The narrative will also include a detailed assessment of the community resources

currently available to meet the permanent housing and supportive services needs of the target population and the extent to which gaps in available services are identified and documented. *Points: 10.*

2. Soundness of Approach and Adequacy/Appropriateness of Delivery System

The Federal partners will consider the adequacy of the comprehensive approach, including the method by which potential clients will be identified and referred to the program, and the method by which the needs of the target population will be addressed. This includes: The extent to which a comprehensive range of services and treatment is available; the availability of permanent housing units that meet housing quality standards; and, the adequacy of the proposed service delivery model that coordinates treatment, services and supports with housing. The quality of the comprehensive approach will also be judged on the comprehensiveness of the content, feasibility of approach, and provision for linkages and coordination of services. In particular, the comprehensive approach needs to be the foundation for establishing sustainable service programming beyond the life of the Federal grant. Issues such as resource leveraging, establishing entitlements, and enrollment in mainstream service delivery are critical components of a sound comprehensive approach. *Points: 25.*

3. Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Partner Agencies and Staff

This will include the demonstrated capacity of the lead applicant and other organizations that will be involved in the proposed project to provide appropriate permanent housing, primary care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and supportive services. It will also include the appropriateness of the management and organizational capability of all organizations involved in this initiative. The Federal partners will take into account: The applicants' past performance in managing funds; the timely use of funds received from Federal, state or local programs; past success in meeting performance targets for completion of activities; and, the number of persons to be served or targeted for assistance. For those persons with service needs not eligible under this NOFA, capacity also includes the ability of the partnering entities to obtain necessary services for these persons. For example, a person with a

developmental disability or persons living with AIDS and requiring home health care may have service needs beyond the scope of this NOFA. Partnering entities must explain how these needs will be met. *Points: 20.*

4. Appropriateness of Budget and Fiscal Controls

This will include a review of the following: How the proposed program is a cost-effective approach to meeting the needs of the target population; the resources required to achieve the goals and objectives; the expectations regarding Federal grant support and maximization of non-grant revenue relative to the proposed plan, including a description of leveraging resources; and the total grant dollars per client/unit and total cost per client/unit. *Points: 15.*

5. Collaboration

This will include the extent to which the lead applicant can coordinate the participation of all partner agencies/organizations, sub-contractors, consultants, sub-recipients, and members of consortia that are firmly committed to the project. Memoranda of agreement from the major providers of housing and services will be required to prove the collaboration efforts of the partners. In addition, specific plans on how the project will systematically assist clients in accessing major Federal, State and local programs, such as Medicaid, TANF, SSI, SSDI, and VA Health Care, must be described. *Points: 20.*

6. Adequacy/Appropriateness of Evaluation Plan

The Federal partners will consider the appropriateness and adequacy of the overall plan for evaluating and monitoring the process and outcomes of the project, both for the lead organization and for all the partners, to ensure that the goals of the initiative are being met. This will include plans to comply with all requirements for each agency (*i.e.* Government Performance Results Act, Annual Performance Report) and the proposed approaches for gathering quantitative and qualitative data on the target population. Applicants must demonstrate the existence of a data collection system to track the goals/objectives of the project. *Points: 10.*

III. Reporting and Evaluation Requirements

The lead applicant must submit annual progress reports and a final report to the ICH and to the four Federal agencies. The annual progress and final

reports shall include, but are not limited to, narrative and empirical information on the following: description of the collaborations and partnerships established over the course of the grant; description of a strategic planning process; the extent to which services are

financed by mainstream programs and how financing patterns change during the duration of the program; the extent to which barriers in accessing housing and services are reduced; numbers of clients served and permanent housing provided, any revisions or refinements

to the benchmark estimate of persons experiencing chronic homelessness in the target community, and other such information as prescribed by the Federal partners.

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